

Nicolaus Copernicus

AD 1473 – AD 1543



Polish scientist who proposed a heliocentric model of the universe to replace the geocentric model popularized by Ptolemy. While it was not possible to prove Copernicus’ theory by direct observationa...

John Dee

AD 1527 – AD 1608



English mathematician and astronomer, Dee drew on traditional magic and Hermetic philosophy, he believed the universe was governed by mathematical principles.

William Gilbert

AD 1544 – AD 1603



English physician and natural philosopher who supported Copernicus and was highly critical of Aristotelian physics. He realized that electricity and magnetism were related but separate phenomena...

Tycho Brahe

AD 1546 – AD 1601



Danish nobleman who built the best observatory of its time at Hveen. His instruments provided far better measurements of planetary positions and provided Kepler with the detailed data leading to his thre...

Giordano Bruno

AD 1548 – AD 1600



Italian philosopher and astronomer who supported the Copernican theory but also believed that the sun was only one of many similar stars, and not at the center of the universe. He was convicted of heresy and burne...

Galileo Galilei

AD 1564 – AD 1642



Italian physicist and astronomy who promoted the Copernican heliocentric theory and criticized Aristotelian mechanics, fighting the opposition of Italian physicists who thought Galileo was also critici...

Johannes Kepler

AD 1571 – AD 1630



German mathematician and astronomer who realized that planets move in ellipses with speed that varies with distance from the sun, and that distance and periodicity are related by a specific relationship.

Isaac Newton

AD 1643 – AD 1727



English physicist, mathematician, and astronomer whose Principia Mathematic demonstrated the consistency between his own theory of gravity and Kepler’s laws of planetary motion....

AD 1480 AD 1490 AD 1500 AD 1510 AD 1520 AD 1530 AD 1540 AD 1550 AD 1560 AD 1570 AD 1580 AD 1590 AD 1600 AD 1610 AD 1620 AD 1630 AD 1640 AD 1650 AD 1660 AD 1670